

Friday, December 05, 2003

490th CA Bn. delivers medical supplies to Baghdad hospital

Story and photo by Sgt. Mark S. Rickert, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers with the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit based in Abilene, Texas, provided some medical supplies to the Al Kadamiya Private Hospital in Baghdad today.

According to Maj. John E. Padgett, the officer in charge of the public health team, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, 1st Armored Division, the public health team's primary mission is help restart and re-equip the Iraqi public health care system.

Although the team aids mostly public hospitals, the private hospital in Al Kadamiya won their attention while the team conducted a broad-based health care system evaluation of Iraq.

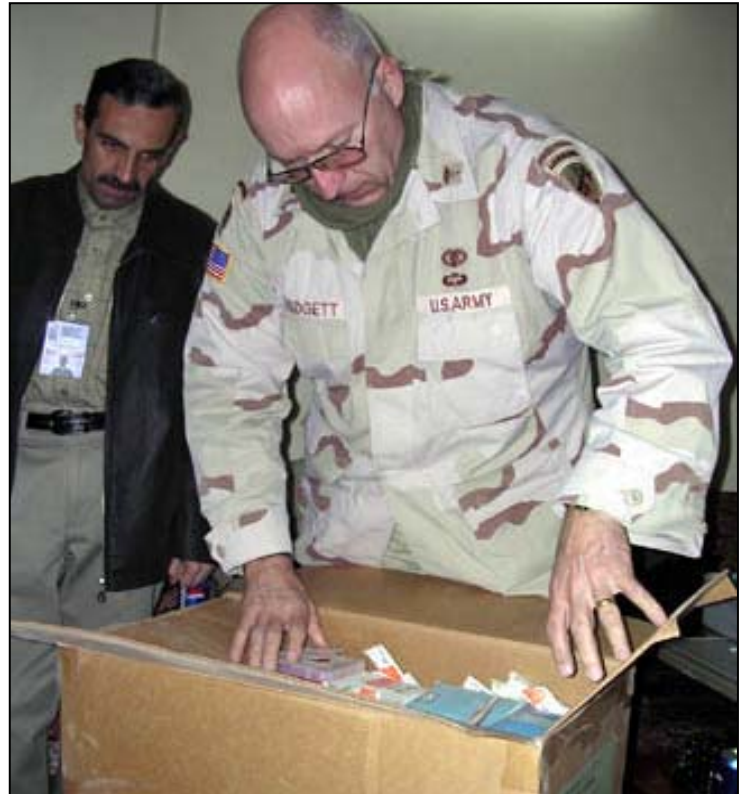
"When we went to the hospital, they asked for our help," said Padgett. "We determined that they practiced good medicine there, and we wanted to help them. I think what cinched it for us was that they provided free health care one or two days a week for the local populace in Al Kadamiya, and we wanted to help the Iraqi people in this regard."

According to Padgett, the public health team acquired the medical supplies through a number of different channels, such as donations, and from some other units, which had found some medical supplies throughout Baghdad. After the war, the team discovered some medical supplies in abandoned Republican Guard health care facilities.

"We found these facilities partially looted or damaged from the war," said Padgett. "My team took charge of what medical instruments or supplies we could salvage, and we've started distributing these supplies to the health care system of Iraq."

The soldiers on the team believe that donating medical supplies to the hospital is important on many different levels. These contributions not only benefit the hospitals, but the act of charity also strengthens the bonds with the community.

"The battle for hearts and minds still goes on," said Padgett. "If we show the Iraqi people that



Maj. John E. Padgett, public health team officer in charge with the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, gives medical supplies to the staff of the Al Kadamiya Private Hospital in Baghdad, Dec. 2. The 490th is part of the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

we care about the humanitarian aspect of things, it will benefit us. Also, it's the right thing to do. We're the good guys; we want to be there for them."

And Padgett says the tangible offerings also create an overt display of assistance to the Iraqi people. Though civil affairs soldiers work in many areas, ranging from education to humanitarian assistance, most of these programs take time to develop, such as training programs and infrastructure development. The act of giving, however, leaves an instant impression, he said.

"When you can actually bring something and put it in the hands of these people—that's a good thing -- not only for us but for the people of Iraq," Padgett said.

The Old Ironsides Report

December 5, 2003

News...

Blast Near U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - A rocket exploded in a field near the U.S. Embassy in Kabul on Thursday about two hours after Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld met with Afghanistan's leader in another part of the capital. A U.S. military official said Rumsfeld had safely left the country to continue his tour of Central Asia. No one was injured in the explosion, which one official blamed on fighters from Afghanistan's ousted Taliban rulers or their ally, renegade warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Israeli General Derides Findings on Iraq

JERUSALEM (AP) - A former Israeli intelligence officer charged Thursday that Israeli agencies produced a flawed picture of Iraqi weapons capabilities and substantially contributed to mistakes made in U.S. and British pre-war assessments on Iraq. The comments of reserve Brig. Gen. Shlomo Brom represented an unusual criticism of the Israeli intelligence community, long regarded as one of the world's best. Prior to his retirement in 1998, Brom served in Israeli military intelligence for 25 years, and acted as the deputy chief of planning for the Israeli army.

6 Injured in Iraqi Police Station Strike

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Guerrillas injured six people in an attack Thursday on a police station in central Iraq, and a U.S. armored vehicle was destroyed in an ambush at an intersection in Baghdad. The American troops in the vehicle escaped unhurt. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Thursday that he saw hopeful signs that NATO may be moving toward acceptance of an expanded role in Iraq.

Flu Sickens More Than 6,300 in Colorado

DENVER (AP) - The flu has sickened more than 6,300 people in Colorado and killed at least five children, and flu season is still a month from reaching its usual peak, authorities said. Ten states are currently dealing with a widespread flu outbreak, most of them the West, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Chaplain's Thought for the day...

"The Two Frogs in the Cream"

Two frogs fell into a ten-gallon milk bucket. They swam for hours.

One frog said, "What's the use?" He gave up and drowned.

The other frog said, "I cannot afford to give up."

He kicked and kicked until the cream turned into butter, and then he jumped out of the can.

If the two frogs would have kicked together, would the cream have turned into butter quicker? Just because some around you see the negative, you cannot afford to quit!

Sports...

OC OKs Retesting Salt Lake THG Samples

By STEPHEN WILSON, AP Sports Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) -- The IOC gave the go-ahead to retest drug samples from the Salt Lake City Olympics for the steroid THG.

The executive board approved the plan after determining there were no legal or scientific obstacles to re-screening frozen samples from the 2002 Winter Games.

"The IOC does not want to leave any stone unturned in the fight against doping," spokeswoman Giselle Davies said.

Patrick Schamasch, medical director of the International Olympic Committee, said it was not yet known how many of the 600 samples would be retested, or when the process would begin. The samples are stored at the Olympic doping control laboratory at UCLA.

IOC president Jacques Rogge said this week he doesn't expect any positives from the samples. He said THG appears to be limited to athletes connected with Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, the California company under investigation by a federal grand jury.

THG, or tetrahydrogestrinone, was unmasked this summer as a steroid chemically modified to avoid detection in standard tests. A test for THG was then developed at the UCLA lab.

At least five track and field athletes, including British sprinter Dwain Chambers and U.S. middle-distance runner Regina Jacobs and shot putter Kevin Toth, and four NFL players have tested positive for THG.

Track and field's governing body retested about 400 samples from the world championships in August in France and found two positive THG cases, both involving athletes with previous positive tests for the drug.

The International Swimming Federation said Wednesday no positive findings were found in retesting of samples from last summer's world championships in Spain.

The IOC also said it will expand testing at next summer's Athens Olympics, covering the period from the opening of the athletes' village on July 30 until the Aug. 29 closing ceremony. That will allow the IOC to test athletes at any time, wherever they are in the world, for its entire list of banned substances.

Previously, athletes were tested for in-competition drugs only after their events, while out-of-competition tests did not include certain stimulants and other substances.

On Friday, the IOC board will examine the protracted case of sprinter Jerome Young, who tested positive for steroids in 1999 but was cleared on appeal by U.S. track officials and allowed to run in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Safety Tip:

GEN. KEANE ON "BEING SAFE"

Unit safety briefings are not enough, Keane said. Soldiers need education and training and leaders must intervene.

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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2003				As of: Thursday, December 04, 2003 9:27:12 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0		HEADLINE NEWS	WALKING WITH CAVEMEN : - PART 1	TODAY		0
0.021	ESPNEWS	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			HEADLINE NEWS	0.021
0.042	AROUND THE HORN		MASTERPIECE THEATER : - A RESPECTABLE TRADE (PT. 2)		LESTER HOLT LIVE	0.042
0.063	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				0.063
0.083	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	0.083
0.104		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	0.104
0.125	NBA - CHICAGO BULLS @ PHILADELPHIA 76ERS	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2003 MAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: MIAMI (OH) VS BOWLING GREEN	RUGRATS : - THE BIG SHOWDOWN	TELETUBBIES : - BECKY & JED FINDING EGGS	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	0.125
0.146			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - DYING FOR PIE / IMITATION KRABS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	0.146
0.167			THE SIMPSONS : - THE COMPUTER WORE MENACE SHOES	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	0.167
0.188			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - BEWITCHED			0.188
0.208			CHARMED : - Y TU MUMMY TAMBIEEN	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - OPRAH'S MOST MEMORABLE CHILDREN	HANNITY & COLMES	0.208
0.229	NBA - LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ DALLAS MAVERICKS					0.229
0.25		ESPNEWS	THE X-FILES : - THE JERSEY DEVIL	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	0.25
0.271		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY		0.271
0.292		HEADLINE NEWS	THE JEFF CORWIN EXPERIENCE : - SPECIAL: MY FAVORITE ENCOUNTERS	CHANCES ARE	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	0.292
0.313		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	0.313
0.333	INSIDE THE NBA	HEADLINE NEWS	THE LIFE OF MAMMALS		LARRY KING LIVE	0.333
0.354		HEADLINE NEWS				0.354
0.375	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - FAMILY	CALILOU : - BEST BEHAVIOR	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	0.375
0.396				THE WEEKENDERS : - TISH'S HAIR / I WANT TO BE ALONE		0.396
0.417	SPORTSCENTER	TELETUBBIES : - BECKY & JED FINDING EGGS	IRON CHEF : - HORSE MACKEREL / MICHIBA VS TATSUO UMEMIYA	AS TOLD BY GINGER	PAULA ZAHN NOW	0.417
0.438		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		CHALK ZONE : - TWO LEFT FEET / ALL DAY JAM SNAP OUT OF WATER / RUDUS TABOOTUS		0.438
0.458	NHL - DALLAS STARS @ LOS ANGELES KINGS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - OPRAH'S MOST MEMORABLE CHILDREN	RUGRATS : - THE BIG SHOWDOWN	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	0.458
0.479			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - DYING FOR PIE / IMITATION KRABS	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	0.479
0.494				PACIFIC REPORT		0.494
0.5		CHANCES ARE	THE SIMPSONS : - THE COMPUTER WORE MENACE SHOES	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	0.5
0.521			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - BEWITCHED	HEADLINE NEWS		0.521
0.536				PACIFIC REPORT		0.536
0.542			CHARMED : - Y TU MUMMY TAMBIEEN	KING OF THE HILL : - THE GOOD BUCK	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	0.542
0.563	NFL LIVE			THAT 70'S SHOW : - HOT DOG		0.563
0.583	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE X-FILES : - THE JERSEY DEVIL	SURVIVOR: PEARL ISLANDS	PRIMETIME	0.583
0.604		JUDGE JUDY				0.604
0.625	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2003 MAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: MIAMI (OH) VS BOWLING GREEN	TODAY	THE JEFF CORWIN EXPERIENCE : - SPECIAL: MY FAVORITE ENCOUNTERS	24 : - DAY 2: 3:00 P.M.- 4:00 P.M.	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	0.625
0.667			THE LIFE OF MAMMALS	HEADLINE NEWS		0.667
0.682				PACIFIC REPORT		0.682
0.688				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		0.688
0.708	SPORTSCENTER	CALILOU : - BEST BEHAVIOR	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - FAMILY		HEADLINE NEWS	0.708
0.729		THE WEEKENDERS : - TISH'S HAIR / I WANT TO BE ALONE		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	0.729
0.74					WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	0.74
0.75	ROME IS BURNING	AS TOLD BY GINGER	IRON CHEF : - HORSE MACKEREL / MICHIBA VS TATSUO UMEMIYA		THE EARLY SHOW	0.75
0.771		CHALK ZONE : - TWO LEFT FEET / ALL DAY JAM SNAP OUT OF WATER / RUDUS TABOOTUS		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		0.771
0.792	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - THE BIG SHOWDOWN	TORAI TORAI TORAI		0.792
0.813		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - DYING FOR PIE / IMITATION KRABS			0.813
0.833	INSIDE THE NFL	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - THE COMPUTER WORE MENACE SHOES		FOX NEWS LIVE	0.833
0.854		HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - BEWITCHED			0.854
0.875	NHL - DETRIOT RED WINGS @ ST. LOUIS BLUES	KING OF THE HILL : - THE GOOD BUCK	CHARMED : - Y TU MUMMY TAMBIEEN		PRIMETIME	0.875
0.896		THAT 70'S SHOW : - HOT DOG		LOVE AND DEATH		0.896
0.917		SURVIVOR: PEARL ISLANDS	THE X-FILES : - THE JERSEY DEVIL		FOX NEWS LIVE	0.917
0.958	ESPNEWS	24 : - DAY 2: 3:00 P.M.- 4:00 P.M.	THE JEFF CORWIN EXPERIENCE : - SPECIAL: MY FAVORITE ENCOUNTERS	TODAY	HEADLINE NEWS	0.958
0.979	ESPNEWS				INSIDE POLITICS	0.979